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3/1. Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,"

Deeply concerned about the threats to human health and the environment from pollution caused or worsened by armed conflict or terrorism,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/37, entitled "Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict,"

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on progress in the implementation of resolution 2/15 on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict,[1] and its recommendations and suggested action,

Expressing its deep concern regarding environmental damage and the depletion of natural resources in the territories affected by armed conflict or terrorism,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 50/70, entitled "General and complete disarmament"; General Assembly resolution 53/242, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements", in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that in accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Environment Programme should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution; and General Assembly resolution 57/337, entitled "Prevention of armed conflict", in which the General Assembly recognized the need for mainstreaming and coordinating the prevention of armed conflict throughout the United Nations system and called upon all its relevant organs, organizations and bodies to consider, in accordance with their respective mandates, how they could best include a conflict prevention perspective in their activities, where appropriate,

Reaffirming that while addressing pollution in areas where terrorism has occurred the United Nations Environment Programme must act within its mandate, which does not include a role in countering terrorism or the definition of terrorism, and is without prejudice to the mandate of other relevant bodies of the United Nations,

Recognizing that sustainable development and the protection of the environment contribute to human well-being and the enjoyment of human rights,

[1] UNEP/EA.3/16.

Recognizing also the need to mitigate and minimize the specific negative effects of pollution in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism on people in vulnerable situations, including children, persons with disabilities, older persons and internally displaced persons,

Recognizing further the specific negative effects of pollution on women and girls and the need to apply a gender perspective with respect to addressing pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism,

Recalling its resolution 2/15, entitled "Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict", in which it acknowledged the need to mitigate the environmental impact of activities of transnational and other organized criminal groups, including illegal armed groups, as well as the illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources in areas affected by armed conflict, and noted the role that the United Nations Environment Programme could play, within its mandate, to support member States in addressing these challenges upon request,

Expressing its grave concern regarding pollution and environmental degradation caused by armed conflict or terrorism through the targeting of natural resources, vital civilian infrastructure, including water filtration facilities, sanitation and electricity networks, and residential properties,

Noting the long-term social and economic consequences of the degradation of the environment and natural resources resulting from pollution caused by armed conflict or terrorism, which include, inter alia, the loss of biodiversity, the loss of crops or livestock, and lack of access to clean water and agricultural land, and the negative and sometimes irreversible impacts on ecosystem services and their impact on sustainable recovery, contributing to further forced displacement related to environmental factors,

Noting also that the collapse of environmental governance in areas affected by conflict can lead to inadequate waste management and dumping, while the loss of economic opportunity can compel affected communities to pursue unsustainable and polluting coping strategies,

Taking into consideration the potential threat from, and far-reaching impact of, the movement of hazardous wastes, including persistent organic pollutants, over long distances in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism,

Noting that the illicit extraction of natural resources and minerals in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism can generate pollution and the displacement of people, in particular those in a vulnerable situation, especially women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons,

Stressing the need for the swift identification, assessment and remediation of pollution in the areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism in order to protect human health and the environment,

Welcoming with appreciation the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism,

1. *Reaffirms* the rules of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to raise greater international awareness of environmental damage and pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism;

3. *Urges* member States to take appropriate measures to minimize and control pollution in situations of armed conflict or terrorism;

4. *Stresses* the importance of preventing the pollution of rivers and water reserves with harmful substances as a result of armed conflict or terrorism;

5. *Invites* all member States, as appropriate and upon the request of the affected State, to cooperate closely in preventing, minimizing and mitigating the negative impacts of armed conflict or terrorism on the environment;

6. *Urges* all States affected by armed conflict or terrorism to encourage all stakeholders at the national level to participate in the preparation of national plans and strategies aimed at setting the priorities for environmental assessment and remediation projects, and to ensure that the data necessary for identifying health outcomes is collected and integrated into health registries and risk education programmes;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue undertaking field visits to affected areas, as appropriate and upon the invitation of the affected State;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to dispatch urgent assistance missions to affected areas, as appropriate and upon the affected State's request, within available resources and in conformity with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, in order to undertake field-based and post-crisis environmental assessment and recovery with a view to assisting affected States in controlling pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and in conformity with the Programme's mandate, to explore ways of improving the Programme's work on pollution threats arising from armed conflict or terrorism;

10. *Invites* United Nations offices, funds and programmes, specialized agencies and related organizations, other international organizations and relevant stakeholders to collaborate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme in providing technical assistance upon the request of States affected by pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism to implement international agreements on the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes and to help build effective environmental governance;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue the Programme's interaction with the International Law Commission inter alia by providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to pollution resulting from armed conflict or terrorism;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

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3/2. Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that a healthy environment is a fundamental condition for the well-being of all life forms and that it greatly depends on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the ecosystem goods and services it underpins,

Concerned about the negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human health worldwide, caused by pollution of air, land and soil, inland water and oceans,

Bearing in mind that some activities conducted by the service and productive sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, extractive industries such as oil, gas, mining and energy, as well as the manufacturing and processing industries, result in pollution of air, land and soil, inland water and oceans,

Recognizing that mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes implies that biodiversity is a vital part of the functioning of the service and productive sectors and that these should seek to reduce, avoid and mitigate their negative impacts, including pollution, while also generating positive effects for biodiversity and ecosystem services, contributing to sustainable development and the provision of essential services for human health and well-being,

Recognizing also that mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into different sectors and fostering cross-sectoral initiatives provides an opportunity to achieve the goals and objectives of different multilateral environmental agreements and international commitments, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling its resolution 2/16 on the mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being,

Welcoming the adoption of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being at the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2016,

Welcoming also decision XIII/3 on strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors and all the other decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting,

Welcoming further decision XIII/33 on the date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in which the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided that the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol would be held in Egypt in the last quarter of 2018 and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Peru for its offer to host intersessional open-ended meetings prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

1. *Invites* member States, taking into account their differing national circumstances:

(a) To strengthen their efforts to mainstream conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity within and across sectors, such as agriculture; fisheries and aquaculture; tourism; extractive industries such as oil, gas, mining and energy; infrastructure; and the manufacturing and processing industries; in order to promote the reduction, mitigation, and remediation of the negative impacts, including pollution, related to those sectors, on biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services;

(b) To work on establishing, strengthening or fostering institutional, legislative and regulatory frameworks, and incorporating an inclusive economic, social and environmentally sustainable approach involving relevant stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, civil society, the private sector and national and subnational governments, as appropriate;

(c) To support sustainable production and consumption through value chains, the application of clean technologies, the elimination, phasing out or reform of incentives harmful to biodiversity, and the strengthening and promotion of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent with international obligations;

(d) To promote the creation of standards and good practice guidelines related to biodiversity in service and productive sectors taking into account ecosystem-based approaches and the implications of cumulative environmental effects on biodiversity;

(e) To encourage the adaptation of practices for sustainable infrastructure, the conservation of landscapes and ecosystems, the sustainable use of land and marine spatial planning and the introduction or promotion of measures to raise awareness of the multiple values of biodiversity that contribute to preventing pollution;

(f) To encourage investments in biodiversity as a means of enhancing the functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote close coordination, collaboration and synergies related to mainstreaming biodiversity among the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral environmental agreements and, as appropriate, other organizations and international initiatives and processes;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate and within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, on the implementation of and follow-up to the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting, especially on aspects related to pollution mitigation through mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors;

4. *Invites* member States to consider including biodiversity as one of the issues to be considered by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a note on upcoming milestones on biodiversity and present it to member States for their consideration no later than the 141st meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme and the first meeting of the Bureau of the Environment Assembly in 2018.

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3/3. Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and General Assembly resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, adopting the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling further its resolution 2/5, on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including paragraph 2 in which the Environment Assembly committed to conveying the main messages of its sessions to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to support its function in the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 71/231 of 21 December 2016, in which the Assembly encouraged the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to convey the main messages agreed upon by the Environment Assembly at its sessions during the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Welcoming the invitation of the President of the Economic and Social Council to the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to provide substantive inputs showcasing the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the main outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly provide the key environmental perspective of sustainable development during the meetings of the high-level political forum,

1. *Reiterates* its commitment to conveying the main messages agreed upon by the Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to assess progress

and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its interlinkages with the social and economic dimensions;

2. *Decides* to include a standing agenda item of the United Nations Environment Assembly on contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, with the aim of considering in its deliberations the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the annual meetings of the high-level political forum;

3. *Also decides* to provide timely substantive inputs to the annual meetings of the high-level political forum, including during the intersessional period between the biennial sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as follows:

(a) The inputs will be provided on the overarching environmental perspective of sustainable development;

(b) The inputs will take into account the themes of meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development as well as the Sustainable Development Goals under review at each of the annual meetings of the forum, as well as the interlinkages between the environmental dimension and the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development;

(c) The inputs will also take into account relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly;

(d) The inputs will be prepared by the Executive Director or the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, under the guidance of the President of the Environment Assembly, in consultation with and for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

4. *Encourages* the interaction between the high-level political forum and the United Nations Environment Assembly and looks forward to its continuation and strengthening;

5. *Recommends* that the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly actively participates in and conveys the main messages of the Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director and recommends the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to work closely with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to enhance consideration of the annual contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to providing feedback to the United Nations Environment Assembly;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within available resources, to ensure that the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme work closely with member States and the regional economic commissions to provide timely inputs in preparing for the annual meetings of the regional forums on sustainable development in order to enable environmental sustainability issues, including emerging ones, in the respective regions and the relevant resolutions of the Environment Assembly to be integrated in the submissions and policy recommendations to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

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3/4. Environment and health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", adopting the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling further the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, entitled "Healthy environment, healthy people",[1]

Welcoming the entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 16 August 2017,

Recognizing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, which contributes to the prevention of pollution,

Noting with appreciation the role of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in supporting pollution prevention and protecting the environment and health,

Welcoming the work of the World Health Organization on environment and health issues, such as air pollution, chemicals and waste, including on heavy metals, and antimicrobial resistance and appreciating the resolutions of the World Health Assembly related to environment and health,

Welcoming also decision XIII/6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity and human health,

Recognizing the essential work conducted by collaborative platforms and initiatives to protect health and the environment,

Welcoming the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to assess the health of the world's biodiversity through thematic, regional and global assessments,

[1] UNEP/EA.2/INF/5.

Expressing our deep concern about the burden of disease from environmental risks, which according to recent estimates from the World Health Organization[2] is responsible for 23 per cent of total global deaths, and the associated costs to society,

Highlighting the findings of the 2017 report *The Lancet Commission on pollution and health* that the effects of pollution on health are underestimated in existing calculations of the global burden of disease, and that pollution, which was responsible for an estimated 9 million premature deaths in 2015, is the single largest environmental cause of disease and premature deaths in the world and causes welfare losses amounting to 6.2 per cent of global economic output, and concerned that deaths associated with ambient air and soil pollution, including pollution by chemicals, are rising,

Recognizing the important role of regional processes of health and environment, including the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, the European Environment and Health Process, the first and second African Inter-ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, the joint sessions of the Arab ministerial councils on the environment and health, and the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, in contributing to regional and national policy actions and in strengthening environmental governance around the environment-health nexus,

1. *Affirms* the strong interlinkages between environment and health, including health inequalities, and the importance of addressing them jointly by implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of applying the precautionary approach as set forth in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as of supporting and facilitating the regular exchange of evidence and science-based knowledge;

3. *Welcomes* the growing recognition of pollution exposure as a key risk factor contributing to premature deaths from non-communicable diseases, which now account for seven in ten deaths globally,[3] and noting such acknowledgments in the report by the World Health Organization "Montevideo Roadmap 2018–2030 on NCDs as a Sustainable Development Priority", in Economic and Social Council resolution E/RES/2017/8 and in the report by the World Health Organization "Preventing Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) by reducing environmental risk factors";

4. *Notes* that the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013–2020, which focuses primarily on behavioural risk factors, acknowledges the role of environmental and occupational hazards as modifiable risk factors for non-communicable diseases, which underscores the need for enhanced communication between the public health and environmental communities on comprehensive approaches to addressing non-communicable diseases;

5. *Stresses* the health benefits of addressing global environmental challenges such as air, marine, water and soil pollution, chemicals exposure, waste management, climate change and biodiversity loss, and their interrelations, and the importance to health and well-being of cross-cutting and preventive approaches, including gender mainstreaming, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystem-based approaches at all stages;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work, as appropriate, with intergovernmental regional processes on health and environment, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other relevant organizations, as well as with the secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Rio conventions, on the environment and health nexus, in order to avoid duplication and improve effectiveness;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, relevant United Nations entities and stakeholders, including the private sector, and subject to the availability of resources, to continue ongoing efforts to support countries, upon request, in developing integrated environment and health policies and measures and to develop methods, tools and guidelines to promote integrated environmental and health risk assessments, building from existing work in that regard;

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[2] *Preventing disease through healthy environments: a global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks*, World Health Organization, 2016, page 86.

[3] "Non-communicable Diseases Fact Sheet," World Health Organization, updated June 2017. Available from http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs355/en/.

8. *Encourages* member States and stakeholders to continue engaging, as appropriate, in the work of ongoing intergovernmental regional processes on health and environment in addressing the health and environment nexus to spearhead the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

I
Chemicals and waste

9. *Urges* member States to intensify efforts to achieve by 2020 the goal for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, which is contained in the Sustainable Development Goals as an essential cross-cutting issue for the achievement of sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment, underlining the importance of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals, taking into account national capacities, and urges member States to actively engage in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

10. *Underlines* the importance for human and environmental health, including biodiversity, of avoiding and minimizing the risks posed by harmful chemicals in products and materials, ensuring their safe use throughout their life cycle, including their environmentally sound reuse, recycling and other recovery, or disposal;

11. *Encourages* Governments and relevant actors that have not yet done so and in the light of national circumstances to develop, adopt and implement effective measures and, as appropriate, national legislation or regulations aimed at minimizing the risks posed by chemicals, including heavy metals, endocrine disruptors and pesticides, in particular to pregnant women, infants and children;

12. *Urges* parties to the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention to implement those conventions and invites non-parties to consider joining them;

13. *Invites* member States to increase awareness of the risks posed to human, animal and environmental health from the improper use of fertilizers and pesticides and to promote measures to address them;

14. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia to further develop and implement communication strategies on the risks caused by chemical products and waste and to foster and facilitate access to information on those risks;

15. *Recalls* the shared responsibility of producers and downstream users throughout the value chain and encourages all relevant actors to implement the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, including through developing higher standards and voluntary commitments, and strengthening efforts, for example under the Responsible Care programme, the Global Product Strategy and other relevant programmes and strategies, in accordance with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and its overall orientation and guidance;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them, given the lack of data in that regard, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations by the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

17. *Notes* that the impacts of the long-term application of pesticides on human and environmental health, particularly if they are persistent or bioaccumulative, are not well known, and therefore requests the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, to encourage research institutions that undertake studies in those areas, including national institutions, to share widely the results of related peer-reviewed epidemiological and other relevant studies, including environmental monitoring and assessment;

II
Climate

18. *Recognizes* the substantial risks posed by climate change to health and welcomes the efforts undertaken to address climate change, including under the Paris Agreement adopted under the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as essential contributions to improve health;

19. *Also recognizes* the likely increased risks of vector-borne diseases due to climate change, noting the documented increased risks of some vector-borne diseases and the lower scientific certainty associated with the risks of other vector-borne diseases, and the need for a preventive approach and integrated collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization in that regard;

20. *Notes* the Ministerial Declaration on "Health, Environment and Climate Change" promulgated at the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Marrakech, Morocco and invites member States to also consider following up on the issues addressed in the declaration, inter alia at the next meeting of the World Health Assembly;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to regularly report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the ongoing consultations between the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on joint activities on climate change, environment and health, including on the preparation of a joint plan;

22. *Also requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to assess the health co-benefits of its current climate-change-related projects, notably for vulnerable groups, and to report on the results of that work to the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

III
Biodiversity

23. *Recognizes* that biodiversity loss is a health risk multiplier, including by aggravating environmental challenges, and underlines in addition the benefits for health and well-being in protecting and restoring biodiversity, ecosystems and their services;

24. *Also recognizes* that human, animal, plant and ecosystem health are interdependent, and emphasizes in that regard the value of the "One Health" approach, an integrated approach that fosters cooperation between environmental conservation and the human health, animal health and plant health sectors;

25. *Encourages* member States and invites relevant organizations to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to enhance ecosystem resilience, including by taking actions to halt biodiversity loss, and to promote coordination between policies and actions aimed at improving biodiversity conservation, food safety and human health as an important safeguard for current and future health and human well-being focusing on relevant sectors;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director to include human health factors in its projects on ecosystem valuation and accounting and, subject to the availability of resources, to assess the health co-benefits of its current biodiversity-related projects and to report on the results of that work to the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

27. *Encourages* member States to facilitate dialogue between agencies responsible for biodiversity and those responsible for health and other sectors across all levels of government to consider relevant health and biodiversity linkages in developing and updating relevant national programmes, policies, strategies and plans, and in various environmental and health assessments to strengthen national monitoring capacities and data collection and to develop interdisciplinary education, training, capacity-building and research programmes;

28. *Also encourages* member States and the Executive Director, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to raise awareness of the negative impacts on wildlife of chemical pollutants, including the risks associated with the use and impacts of agro-chemicals and animal drugs, as well as the dangers to the environment of lead in ammunition, and to encourage research regarding alternatives to such chemicals and drugs that are toxic to wildlife, as well as safety testing thereof;

IV
Antimicrobial resistance

29. *Recognizes* that antimicrobial resistance is a current and increasing threat and challenge to global health, food security and sustainable development of all countries;

30. *Welcomes* the United Nations high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance in September 2016 and its political declaration that raised awareness of

antimicrobial resistance at the highest political level and reaffirmed the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was prepared in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health and adopted at the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, held in May 2015, as the blueprint for action; and also welcomes the efforts and investments of the World Health Organization, other United Nations entities and member States, including national action plans developed in accordance with the five overarching strategic objectives of the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan, and the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance;

31. *Underlines* the need to further understand the role of environmental pollution in the development of antimicrobial resistance, the limited availability, tools for and use of environmental surveillance of anthropogenic antimicrobials, and the limited understanding of the long-term effects of antimicrobials in the environment to the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems;

32. *Notes* that human, animal and plant health and the environment are interconnected and that addressing the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance effectively requires a holistic and multisectoral approach;

33. *Requests* the Executive Director to work in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health and all other relevant organizations, academia, the private sector and civil society to support efforts by member States to identify and characterize the human and animal health risk, based on the "One Health" approach and in line with the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as the risk to biodiversity and ecosystems arising from anthropogenic antimicrobial resistance in the environment;

34. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organization for Animal Health, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, and subject to the availability of resources, to prepare by the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly a report on the environmental impacts of antimicrobial resistance and the causes for the development and spread of resistance in the environment, including the gaps in understanding of those impacts and causes;

35. *Encourages* member States to consider, as part of evidence-based environmental policymaking, putting in place measures, as nationally appropriate, to effectively manage waste and wastewater to minimize their contribution to antimicrobial resistance through environmental contamination, including that applicable to municipalities, the agricultural industry, health-care facilities, manufacturers of antibiotics, household detergent waste and heavy metals;

V

Sustainable consumption and production

36. *Underlines* that sustainable consumption and production, resource efficiency, life cycle approaches, sustainable finance and other cross-cutting approaches, including those supported by various Governments, such as the circular economy, sustainable materials management and reduction, reuse and recycling, provide key system-wide and preventive solutions to tackle pollution and thereby improve health and the environment synergistically;

37. *Welcomes* the report by the International Resource Panel entitled *Assessing global resource use: A systems approach to resource efficiency and pollution reduction*; underlines that environmental impacts, including pollution, cannot be mitigated effectively by focusing on emissions abatement alone; calls for the development of strategies to enhance resource efficiency along the full life cycle of products; welcomes further work of the International Resource Panel on the status and trends of natural resource use and management and its links with pollution and other environmental impacts, as well as on the identification of options for enhancing sustainable management of natural resources; and encourages the International Resource Panel to make available reports to be considered, as relevant, at the sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

38. *Recommends* the inclusion of a cross-cutting monitored indicator on health and well-being impacts in the Indicators of Success for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

39. *Requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities, to identify opportunities for and promote sustainable lifestyles and

sustainable consumption and production patterns that would benefit the environment and human health through, inter alia, the promotion of public health campaigns;

40. *Emphasizes* the importance of education, lifelong learning and raising public awareness, notably through measures aimed at providing product sustainability information in order to stress the shared responsibility of all stakeholders including industry and allow informed choices by consumers; notes in that regard the newly launched Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information; and calls on member States to strengthen efforts in the areas of education and, together with the private sector, as appropriate, in training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and cooperation with regards to linkages between health and environment;

41. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Nairobi, 4–6 December 2017

3/5. Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Emphasizing that policies supporting innovative environmental solutions can facilitate the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner in its economic, social and environmental dimensions,

Recalling its resolution 1/10 of 27 June 2014 and paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/8, in which it was acknowledged that there were different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by States Members of the United Nations in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Acknowledging that natural capital is a concept whose meaning is still under discussion and that, for the purpose of this resolution, natural assets have different intrinsic values and are subject to national jurisdiction and sovereignty,

Recognizing the need to promote investment in innovative environmental solutions to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their strategic role in providing practical and affordable solutions to socioeconomic development challenges, including those associated with the use of scientific and technological knowledge,

Mindful that sustainable management of natural capital is one of the innovative approaches that can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Stressing that the conservation of the environment, and ecosystem services and their functions, as well as the sustainable use and management of natural resources, should be ensured in the promotion of innovative environmental solutions,

Noting that investing and promoting innovative environmental solutions in areas such as clean energy, ecosystem-based approaches to agriculture and sustainable industrialization and sustainable consumption and production can contribute to reducing pollution, enhancing the capacity of ecosystems, improving food security, accelerating socioeconomic transformation and creating sustainable employment and economic growth,

Emphasizing that capacity-building, technology development and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and resource mobilization from all sources are important elements to enhance and strengthen national capacities to develop innovative environmental solutions, including at the local level,

1. *Invites* member States, as appropriate, to take measures to promote and invest in innovative environmental policy interventions and actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Encourages* member States to promote and facilitate measures to strengthen innovative environmentally sound technologies that will ensure value addition through the sustainable use of natural capital and natural resources, while minimizing pollution and preventing, reducing and reversing ecosystem degradation;

3. *Encourages* the promotion of innovative environmental solutions by facilitating and enhancing, inter alia, innovative financing schemes, education, research and development, capacity-building, private and public partnerships and policy coherence;

4. *Reiterates* the need to develop and strengthen partnerships between Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant parties to promote and enhance investment in innovative environmental solutions;

5. *Urges* member States to adopt, as appropriate, measures for preventing, reducing and reversing ecosystem degradation and loss in order to sustainably use and manage natural resources towards sustainable development;

6. *Also* urges member States to promote environmentally sound innovative policies for sustainable industrialization, agriculture, urban development, transport, tourism and trade, as well as sustainable consumption and production in those key sectors;

7. *Reiterates* that the availability and accessibility of adequate, predictable and sustainable resource mobilization from all sources, technology development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building are important for unlocking practical, affordable and innovative environmental solutions;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with other United Nations entities, development partners and the international community, to facilitate the strengthening of international cooperation by supporting countries in the promotion of innovative environmental solutions and their efforts to develop policies and measures to that end;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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3/6. Managing soil pollution to achieve sustainable development

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also the revised World Soil Charter, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its thirty-ninth session, held in Rome in June 2015, and reaffirming in that regard that Governments should establish and implement regulations to limit the accumulation of contaminants beyond established levels to safeguard human health and well-being and facilitate the remediation of contaminated soils that exceed those levels where they pose a threat to humans, plants and animals,

Recalling further United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/24 on combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands,

Welcoming the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on soil issues, including the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership for Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in December 2012 and the publication in December 2015 of the *Status of the World's Soil Resources* report by the Global Soil Partnership Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, as well as the development of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management* endorsed by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its one hundred and fifty-fifth session, held in Rome in December 2016,

Welcoming also the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on land and the launch of the *Global Land Outlook* at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in September 2017,

Acknowledging that land is the main resource base around which ecosystem services are anchored, that soil is one of the largest reservoirs of biodiversity and that the negative impacts of the contamination of soil undermine productivity and sustainability of ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture and food security, and clean ground and surface water, potentially hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 13 and 15,[1]

Acknowledging also that soils, which contain the second largest active carbon stock, the first being the oceans, are an essential element for climate change mitigation and resilience, and that land

[1] A/RES/70/1.

pollution leads to a reduction in soil biological activity and is therefore one factor contributing to the reduction of its capacity to act as a carbon sink,

Recognizing that preventing, reducing and managing soil pollution is vital to protecting human and environmental health and improving human well-being,

Concerned about the threat of soil pollution emanating from oil spillages, unsustainable mining practices, unregulated or uncontrolled disposals and emissions of chemicals, heavy metals and wastes, improper use of fertilizers and pesticides in agricultural production, and contamination from landfills,

Concerned also about the knowledge gap and lack of data and information on soil pollution and contamination and its impact on health and the environment globally, as well as the lack of a coordinated and robust policy approach to curtailing soil pollution at the national level and, where relevant, the regional and international levels,

Emphasizing that capacity-building, the development and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and resource mobilization from all sources are important elements in the achievement of sustainable development,

1. *Requests* member States and invites relevant United Nations organizations to address soil pollution within the global environmental, food security and agriculture, development and health agendas in an integrated manner, especially through preventive approaches and risk management using available science;

2. *Encourages* member States to undertake the necessary measures at the national level and, as appropriate, the regional level to, among other things, formulate new and strengthen existing strategic interventions, policies and legislation aimed at setting norms and standards to prevent, reduce and manage soil pollution;

3. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme to provide, upon request and in collaboration with other United Nations entities and stakeholders, support to Governments' efforts to strengthen and, as appropriate, coordinate national and regional policies and legislation to curb soil pollution;

4. *Invites* the international community, regional bodies, civil society and the private sector to support the development of information systems on polluted sites and programmes, that invest in sustainable land management and research aimed at preventing, reducing and managing soil pollution;

5. *Reiterates* that the availability and accessibility of adequate, predictable and sustainable resources from all sources, technology development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building are important to the effective prevention, reduction and management of soil pollution;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other United Nations entities and relevant global and regional initiatives with expertise related to soil and soil pollution, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Soil Partnership, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Health Organization, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the International Committee on Contaminated Land, to cooperate as appropriate in efforts geared at preventing, reducing and managing soil pollution;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources, by the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to invite, within their respective mandates, relevant United Nations organizations, including the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Soil Partnership and its Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

(a) To prepare a report based on available scientific information and data on:

(i) The extent and future trends of soil pollution, considering both point source contamination and diffuse pollution;

(ii) The risks and impacts of soil pollution on health, the environment and food security, including land degradation and the burden of disease resulting from exposure to contaminated soil;

(b) To elaborate technical guidelines for the prevention and minimization of soil contamination as a contribution to support the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management*, including nature-based solutions;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with member States, to invite, within their respective mandates and available resources, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations entities, in collaboration with partners, including academia, research and scientific institutions, to work with the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) To promote research and development that contributes to controlling and managing soil pollution;

(b) To strengthen the science-policy interface to inform policymaking on soil pollution, as appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) To raise awareness and improve the dissemination of knowledge on soil pollution;

(d) To promote a coordinated approach for combating soil pollution, including the promotion of coherent and coordinated data collection and management, and information-sharing on soil pollution;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

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3/7. Marine litter and microplastics

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recalling Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its target 14.1, which seeks, by 2025, to "prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution",

Recalling its resolutions 1/6, entitled "Marine plastic debris and microplastics," and 2/11, entitled "Marine plastic litter and microplastics," on measures to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics,

Acknowledging the increased knowledge on the levels, sources, negative effects of and measures to reduce marine litter and microplastics, as summarized in the 2016 assessment report by the United Nations Environment Programme entitled *Marine plastic debris and microplastics: Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change*, the First World Ocean Assessment and numerous other reports and scientific publications,

Noting the report entitled "Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: An assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches" prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to Environment Assembly resolution 2/11,

Noting also the commitment of member States to the "Our ocean, our future: call for action" declaration, adopted at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, in June 2017, and the voluntary commitments presented there, at the Our Ocean conferences held in Washington D.C., Valparaiso, Chile, and Valletta, Malta, and at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as well as the Group of 20 Action Plan on Marine Litter adopted in 2017, on efforts to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics,

Noting further the International Coral Reef Initiative recommendation to reduce plastic microbead pollution in the marine environment, adopted in November 2016, and the call for action by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme on plastic microbeads,

Noting with concern the high and rapidly increasing levels of marine plastic litter and the expected increase in negative effects on marine biodiversity, ecosystems, animal well-being, fisheries, maritime transport, recreation and tourism, local societies and economies, and the urgent need for strengthened knowledge of the levels and effects of microplastics and nanoplastics on marine ecosystems, seafood and human health,

Recognizing with concern that natural disasters and increasingly severe weather events cause significant input of litter and microplastics to the marine environment,

Underlining that preventive action through waste minimization and environmentally sound waste management should be given the highest priority and that that is especially important in geographical areas with the largest sources of marine plastic litter, and recognizing that technology and effective measures already exist that may provide cost-effective, environmentally sound and locally and regionally adapted solutions,

Emphasizing that technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and resource mobilization from all sources are important elements to combating marine litter and microplastics,

Acknowledging the challenges of addressing marine plastic pollution in the face of increasing production and consumption of plastic in products and packaging, and urging all countries and other stakeholders to make responsible use of plastic while endeavouring to reduce the unnecessary use of plastic and to promote research and application of environmentally sound alternatives,

1. *Stresses* the importance of long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans and of avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them from marine litter and microplastics;

2. *Urges* all actors to step up actions to "by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution";

3. *Encourages* all member States, based on best available knowledge of sources and levels of marine litter and microplastics in the environment, to prioritize policies and measures at the appropriate scale to avoid marine litter and microplastics from entering the marine environment;

4. *Also encourages* all member States and invites other actors, taking into account national conditions:

(a) To fully implement the recommendations and actions set out in its resolutions 1/6 and 2/11, as relevant, and emphasizes that those resolutions have important elements and guidance that are not repeated in the present resolution;

(b) To cooperate to establish common definitions and harmonized standards and methodologies for the measurement and monitoring of marine litter and microplastics;

(c) To develop and implement action plans for preventing marine litter and the discharge of microplastics; encouraging resource efficiency, and increasing collection and recycling rates of plastic waste and re-design and re-use of products and materials; and avoiding the unnecessary use of plastic and plastic containing chemicals of particular concern where appropriate;

(d) To include marine litter and microplastics in local, national and regional waste management plans and in wastewater treatment where appropriate;

(e) To develop integrated and source-to-sea approaches to combat marine litter and microplastics from all sources, taking into account that plastic litter and microplastics are transported to the oceans from land-based sources by rivers and run-off or wind from land and that plastic litter is an important source of microplastics, and include the land/sea and freshwater/sea interface in action plans for preventing marine litter, including microplastics;

(f) To step up measures to prevent marine litter and the discharge of microplastics from sea-based sources, such as fisheries, aquaculture, off-shore installations and shipping, including through the promotion of accessibility and use of port reception facilities;

(g) To encourage the inclusion of measures to prevent marine litter and the discharge of microplastics, in particular from land-based sources, in plans to prevent and reduce damage from natural disasters and increasingly severe weather events;

(h) To prioritize, where feasible, clean-up of the marine environment in areas where marine litter poses a significant threat to human health, biodiversity, wildlife and the coastal ecosystems, conducted in a cost-effective way;

5. *Recognizes* that the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can contribute significantly to preventing and reducing marine litter and microplastics, including through information sharing, awareness-raising, developing new environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and clean-up actions, and encourages cooperation between

Governments, regional bodies, the private sector and civil society, including through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and its regional nodes, to that end;

6. *Notes* the important role of key sectors such as plastics producers, retailers and the consumer goods industry, as well as importers, packaging firms and transport firms, to contribute to the reduction of marine litter, including microplastics, arising from their products and activities, as well as to provide information on the impacts arising from their products throughout their life cycle, and encourages innovative approaches such as the use of extended producer responsibility schemes, container deposit schemes and other initiatives;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to strengthen the capacity and activity of the United Nations Environment Programme on marine litter and microplastics, including by:

(a) Strengthening the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Global Partnership on Marine Litter;

(b) Providing advice on the prioritizing of activities upon request based on best available scientific knowledge, and the most environmentally sound and cost-effective measures to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics, according to resolutions 1/6 and 2/11 and the present resolution;

(c) Facilitating the establishment and implementation of regional and national action plans to prevent and reduce litter and microplastics in the marine environment, as requested by member States;

(d) Supporting countries, upon request and in collaboration with other international organizations and relevant stakeholders, in closing data gaps and improving the availability of accessible data on the sources and extent of marine litter and microplastics in the environment;

(e) Closely liaising with other United Nations agencies to encourage them to support programmes to reduce marine litter and microplastics;

8. *Invites* relevant international and regional organizations and conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the International Maritime Organization and its conventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, regional seas conventions and programmes, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as appropriate within their mandates, to increase their action to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics and their harmful effects and to coordinate where appropriate to achieve that end;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with other relevant bodies and international initiatives, to compile voluntary commitments, as applicable, targeting marine litter and microplastics; to provide an overview of their scope in support of the work of the United Nations Environment Assembly on that issue; to better understand progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 14.1; and to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the matter;

10. *Decides* to convene, subject to the availability of resources, meetings of an open-ended ad hoc expert group to further examine the barriers to and options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources, and:

(a) Requests the Executive Director to provide the secretariat for that work;

(b) Decides that the open-ended ad hoc expert group will be informed by and build on, among others, relevant resolutions, decisions and reports by the United Nations Environment Programme, other organizations, member States and stakeholders as appropriate;

(c) Decides that the open-ended ad hoc expert group will include experts with the relevant technical expertise from all member States, representation from international and regional conventions and organizations and relevant stakeholders;

(d) Decides that the open-ended ad hoc expert group will have the following initial programme of work:

(i) To explore all barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics, including challenges related to resources in developing countries;

(ii) To identify the range of national, regional and international response options, including actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches;

(iii) To identify environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options;

(iv) To examine the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options;

(v) To identify potential options for continued work for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly;

(e) *Decides* to convene at least one meeting, but no more than two meetings, before the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including enabling the participation of developing countries;

(f) *Requests* the Executive Director to provide a progress update to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the programme of work, including on the results of the meeting(s);

(g) *Decides* to determine the future direction, timing and expected outcomes of the work at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session on the implementation of its resolutions 1/6 and 2/11 and the present resolution.